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Prisoners from the Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis in Buckeye will do some work at the farm. Hickman said he isn't sure how many prisoners will work in Tonopah because they work with baby chicks, and the babies will be born and raised at Hickman's facility in Arlington.

Visitors travel there to soak in the healing waters while taking in the views of Saddle Mountain and the Palo Verde Hills, he said.

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"Some people have arthritis problems. Some people have back problems. Some people have joint problems, and they come here to heal," Kamowski said.

He called the mere presence of a giant egg and fertilizer farm a threat to his business. He's concerned about the odor and aesthetics, as well as impact on the water.

Oscar Lopez owns Tonopah Family Restaurant, which is three-quarters of a mile east of the proposed farm. Lopez said customers and truckers from the interstate will bypass the area once word is out about the farm.

"We're going to lose a lot of business," Lopez said, adding that about 70 percent of his business comes from outside Tonopah.

Mike Wirth is a co-owner of the Saddle Mountain RV Park, which was built in 1980 and is home to part-time and permanent residents. Wirth said he and his brother invested millions into the park with 344 RV spaces, 28 apartments, an 11,000-square-foot clubhouse and other amenities.

"I just cannot see how you can have 6 (million) to 8 million chickens within three-quarters of a mile of me and not create an odor or fly problem of some kind," he said.

Wirth's attorney sent letters to the Hickmans and the county Board of Supervisors warning that the farm could be a nuisance and damage the RV park business.

Clint Hickman, who was appointed to the county Board of Supervisors in 2013, said he has been careful to avoid a conflict of interest. He said that he has made it clear to the county that he isn't involved in any county issues concerning the facility.

"I'm more than happy to talk about issues of all sorts and types in the Tonopah area as they come to me, but on something like this where my family and my family company is investing money in the West Valley to expand our operations, I'm very proud of that," Clint Hickman said.

"However I have a role with the county and on something like this that hits so close to home, what I can do is make sure that anyone with any complaints or suggestions needs to talk to the people that will regulate us," he said. "If they have particular questions when it comes to the county, like air quality or something, there are agency heads that exist just for that purpose."

However, until the facility is built and there are complaints, there is no one to regulate the facility.

Few permits required

There are two permits required of Hickman's Family Farms. The company must apply for a floodplain-use permit from the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, because the parcel is affected minimally by a floodplain, said Cari Gerchick, a county spokeswoman.

Based on a preliminary review, none of the proposed structures are affected by the floodplain, so the use permit will be issued, and a final inspection will be done to ensure that the buildings do not affect the floodplain, she said.

The Hickmans also applied for a dust-control permit, which the county Air Quality Department approved Jan. 30. The permit requires the company to keep dust to a minimum when building the facility.

There are no other permits required, according to the state and county.

Billy Hickman said the facility has support among some Tonopah residents, including those who have applied for jobs.

"I don't know that I can please everybody," he said. "Hopefully, we can perform at a level that they're satisfied that ... we're not disrupting their lives."

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